

### IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Four Times Amended): A sweetener composition, comprising a mixture of:

- (a) N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- $\alpha$ -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine-1-methyl ester; and
- (b) Acesulfame K,

wherein said Acesulfame K is present in said mixture in an amount of 50 to 97% by weight based on the total [amount] weight of said

N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- $\alpha$ -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester and said Acesulfame K and wherein said N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- $\alpha$ -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester comprises a C-type crystal.

Please cancel Claims 2 and 8-10.

12. (Four Times Amended): A method for preparing a drink composition, comprising dissolving:

(A) a mixture, comprising

- (a) N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- $\alpha$ -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester;
- and

(b) Acesulfame K;

in

(B) a potable liquid,

wherein said Acesulfame K is present in said mixture in an amount of 50 to 97% by weight based on the total [amount] weight of said

N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- $\alpha$ -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester and said Acesulfame

K and wherein said N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- $\alpha$ -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester comprises a C-type crystal.